

The Opinion

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The Opinion Briefs – September 20, 1982

William Mitchell College of Law

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OPINION WELCOMES NEWCOMERS

Welcome, first-year students. We're all delighted to have you here at William Mitchell, albeit for different reasons.

The faculty and staff are happy you're here because your presence--and tuition payments--assure their continued employment. No small thing, that, now that the country has a president who's going to put the economy back on its feet through mass bankruptcy.

Second-year students also have an economic motive in extending you their welcome. After all, you're the ones who bought their used books (except for you gunners, who buy nothing but new books--and, worse, probably plan to keep them).

The rest of your fellow students welcome you for a very different reason. We

suffered through the first year. Now it makes us feel good to watch someone else suffer. (And just wait till you get your first legal-writing assignment back!)

By now you've been through a few weeks of classes, and you've had a chance to mull over some of the points your professors have repeatedly emphasized.

Depressing, isn't it? But don't take it personally. They despise everyone, evenhandedly.

That, too, can be pretty depressing. But remember one thing: Whatever the criteria are for appointment as an appellate-court judge, it's clear that the ability to write a simple declarative sentence is not among them. In other words, it's their fault, not yours.

Moreover, you're not alone in your occasional bewilderment. Consider the following comment on a 1947 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court:

"I give up. Now I realize fully what Mark Twain meant when he said, 'The more you explain it, the more I don't understand it.'"

No, that wasn't written by a law student. It was written by a member of the court, Justice Jackson, dissenting in Securities and Exchange Commission v. Chenery Corp. (332 U.S. 194, 214).

I've had that quotation printed in Olde-English type, and a framed copy stands on my mantelpiece.

It's a great source of comfort. Try to find something like it early in your law-school career. It'll cut down on your liquor bills.

The Opinion

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BRIEFS

CHILD CARE CENTER ENROLLMENT DOUBLES

Child care is available to William Mitchell students and members of the community at the Child Care Center from 3 to 11 pm Monday through Friday. The center is in the Park Baptist Church, 118 Victoria Ave.

The center is directed by Deb Holtz, a second-year evening student at Mitchell who holds a degree in special education. Holtz's assistants are Betsy Hilligoss and Mary Leinfelder. Hilligoss is a certified nursery-school teacher with extensive experience in child care. Leinfelder is a part-time assistant.

The Center is growing as it begins its second year. Enrollment, which currently stands at about 10 or 11 children a night, is double what it was last year. The Center has switched to a short-interval lease with the church because of plans to expand into a larger space. The ABA Journal telephoned on Sept. 15 and plans to run a piece on the center in its November issue.

The center currently handles infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. If a larger space is found, the program can be expanded to include older children as well. Holtz says she also hopes to expand the hours the center is open.

The current rates at the center are \$2 an hour for infants, \$1.90 for toddlers, and \$1.80 for

pre-schoolers. These rates will be cut in half for students thanks to a subsidy from the SBA. The new rates will take effect Oct. 1.

Anyone interested in the child-care program is invited to call the center at 293-0586 for reservations or further details, to visit the center and look around.

OPINION NEEDS YOU

Does your pen start writing on its own? Does your camera start clicking in the closet? Do you draw on all your resources? Then the Opinion needs you!

Although the Opinion welcomes contributions from everyone, we have a number of specific staff positions available.

Reporters are needed to write copy for both the Opinion and the Briefs, and photographers and artists are needed to provide

photos and artwork for the Opinion.

In order to cover relevant issues and events, and to continue to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, your contributions are needed.

Anyone interested should fill out an application (available in the Opinion office), and return it to the Opinion mailbox in the Communications Center.

REGISTRATION "PRICE PLAN" PROPOSED

A revision of the student lottery system has been proposed to the Student Bar Association. The "Price Plan" would allow students to register for electives based upon the number of credits received and currently registered for. Students with the

most credits will register first. Those students with the same number of credits will be assigned a position within that grouping on a random basis. Registration order will be posted by student I.D. number. This system, if approved by the student

body and ratified by the Student Bar Association, will be adopted and used for winter semester registration. Please let your SBA representative know what you think of this revision. Comments may also be placed in the SBA president's mailbox in the Used Bookstore.

COMMITTEE REPS SELECTED

Student representatives to faculty committees this year will prepare written reports of committee meetings for circulation among all William Mitchell students, according to SBA President Deb Kraus.

Kraus said a willingness to attend meetings regularly and to report to the students was something she looked for in applicants for committee assignments.

"In the past," Kraus said, "the student representative did not always attend the meetings. As a

result, there was little student input on matters such as the revised student code -- something that affects every student."

A list of student committee representatives has been posted on the SBA bulletin board.

"If students have specific questions about a certain committee, they should contact the student representative," said Kraus. General questions may be directed to Kraus (698-2035) or Tim Keane (835-3800) during the day.

OLDE POEM

by George McCormick

Whan that August with his
blazying sonne
Doth parch the earth and
make us everyonne
Think wistfullye of lakes
coole and cleare,
And shady pines, and lots
of iced beere;
Whan sumer seemes hardly
under-way,
and sprynge exames were
but yester-day,
And all our plans for
lying on the beach
Are unfulfilled, slipped
from our reache;
Than Mitchell students,
bowing to the rule,
Do wend their ways
unwilling back to schule
to starte anew their
educacioun --
And hope that they can pay
tuicioun!

HOMECOMING '82

About 260 William Mitchell Alumni attended the college's annual homecoming Aug. 27.

"Somewhat surprisingly, there was a strong showing from the class of '32," said Associate Dean Robert Oliphant.

The following night, a dance for students was

held in the tent on the college's front lawn. Music was provided by the John Gibbs Orchestra.

Attendance was somewhat sparse, however, and few of those who were present ventured onto the dance floor.

"It's probable that we will cut the dance next

year," said Oliphant.

Responses from first-year students were mixed. "It was nice to meet people as people, not as students in the classroom," said one.

Said another, however: "The beer was cold. What more do you want?"

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